Setting up of new wind Power Projects

2367. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is encouraging for setting up of new Wind Power Projects;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the names of companies who have shown interest in Wind Power Projects and have been given financial assistance by Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government is encouraging setting up of wind power projects by providing concessional import duty on certain components of wind electric generator, excise duty exemption, ten years' tax holiday on income generated from wind power projects, benefit of accelerated depreciation and loan from Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) and other financial institutions. Wind power is being given preferential tariff in potential States. Continuous efforts are under way to identify new wind power potential areas through wind resource assessment studies and R&D by the Centre for Wind Energy Technology (C-WET), Chennai, which is an autonomous institution under the administrative control of this Ministry.

(c) Wind Farms are set up commercially through private investment. There are about 1700 private investors who have already set up wind farm projects. More such private investors are coming forward for setting up wind farm projects. Government is not providing any financial assistance for such projects.

Steering Group on hydrogen energy

2368. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has set up a steering group on hydrogen energy;